August 12, 1964

Wasatch County Commission
Heber, Utah

Gentlemen:

Please be hereby notified that we will terminate our ambulance service as of January 1, 1965. May we give our reasons?

Thirty six years ago we started our business in Heber. Ambulance service was only occasionally called for and we offered and gave that service free for many years. May we say that we greatly enjoyed giving this emergency help to friends and strangers alike. During the first twenty five years of this time our Joseph Olpin was also a member of the Heber Valley Volunteer Fire Department.

With the tremendous growth of traffic and the many fold increase in the demand for ambulance service, plus the expansion into Summit and Duchesne Counties with our business, we found it necessary to expand our ambulance facilities and to charge for the same.

Today, in order to try to meet the demands, we keep two double outfits made up at Heber, two at Roosevelt and one double at Park City. To man these outfits at all hours is quite a problem. Through the years we have had to refuse to give service only about twice, when all of these outfits, plus the extra station wagon we keep at Heber and at Roosevelt (with made up stretchers to go in them) have been in service.

We have never refused an ambulance call unless all of our outfits have been out on call. We have been happy to help save lives and give aid to friends and strangers. It has been a pleasure to work with doctors who understood our problems and appreciated our efforts. At one time at a Chamber of Commerce banquet, Dr. Karl O. Nielson was asked to introduce the Hospital personnel. (They were honoring the Hospital.) He included us as "an important part of the life saving team of the county."

"Dry runs" are an important part of our problem. Almost weekly we have calls many miles away when we are not needed. These dry runs have been much over a thousand miles a day on many hollidays and week ends. We have never billed anyone for these runs. Our ambulance service has always operated at a loss. This is true of all rural such services with which we are acquainted.

We believe that this ambulance problem is now much larger than us xxx and too important to be ignored. We believe that it is in a class with fire fighting and needs to be a public responsability.

We are bringing our decision to you first. We expect to take it to the Duchesne County Commission at their meeting Monday and then to Summit county. The latter helped put an ambulance service in Kamas so we have only the Park City area with which we are concerned. We expect to give this matter wide publicity so it will be known that we are not available after the last of the year.

We believe that this service is now seriously interferring with our own business and we know that we cannot afford to employ help for this unprofitable, irregular, sometimes unappreciated work.

~~We request an audience with you at your Wednesday meeting.~~

Yxxxxxfxxxx
Sincerely,

Olpin Mortuary

President

Other circumstances, not mentioned, have helped to climax our decision to terminate this service.